

Transit for Connecticut
Helping People, the Economy and the Environment

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

February 28, 2011

In Support of RB 1061 AAC the Use of Off-Duty School Buses to Provide Public Transportation

Dear Sen. Maynard, Rep. Guerrero and Members of the Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 31 business, social service, environmental, planning, transportation and civic organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the benefits of bus transit and advocating for increased investment in transit service, I urge you to support RB 1061 ACC the Use of Off-Duty School Buses to Provide Public Transportation.

An August 2008 report from the National Conference of State Legislatures, titled "School Buses and Special Needs Transportation – Options for Policymakers" gives specific examples of the benefits of and challenges involved with the use of off-duty school buses for public transportation. The report also includes references to statutes in 26 states on "school buses for public use."

Transit for Connecticut seeks to promote more access to public transit for more Connecticut residents. The idea of using off-duty school buses to transport the public is successful in other states and a concept we feel should be reviewed and, where feasible, encouraged in Connecticut.

RB 1061 provides the framework for pursuing the use of off-duty school buses to provide service for the public, primarily senior citizens and the disabled. While there are many considerations involved in deciding whether such use of off-duty school buses can be implemented in a community, such a program may provide service not now being provided and also generate revenue for a school district.

Transit for Connecticut thanks the Committee for its consideration of this bill and hopes to work with you to further the discussion of this concept.

Thank you.

Karen Burnaska, Coordinator
Transit for Connecticut